

**(Washington, DC)** Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) scored 100 percent on the Humane Society's *Humane Scorecard*, while Floridian Members scored an average of 55 percent. Hastings is one of the few Members of Congress with such pro-animals positions.

Every year, the Humane Society rates U.S. Senators and Representatives on their leadership and advocacy for animal rights. The scorecard tracks key votes, sponsorship, and co-sponsorship of important pro-animal legislation.

In the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, Hastings was a cosponsor of the *Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act*, the *Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act*, the *Great Ape Protection Act*, and the *Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act*.

. In addition, Hastings voted for several bills that funded programs providing service dogs to veterans, as well as conservation and recovery programs for imperiled crane populations, rare felids and canids, marine turtles, and sea otters. Lastly, he supported the prohibition on the commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros, the prohibition on interstate and foreign commerce of nonhuman primates for the pet trade, as well as the federal ban on carrying loaded firearms in national parks.

"Throughout my career, I have consistently supported legislation that condemns animal cruelty in all of its forms, protects our nation's wildlife and encourages environmental conservation. It is unacceptable that in today's society animals continue to be mistreated, and species conservation neglected. The U.S. government should avoid putting the well-being of animals at risk whenever possible and look into better ways to protect those that cannot protect themselves. I will never waiver in my strong support and advocacy of animal rights," said Hastings.

Hastings is also a leader in introducing legislation promoting species conservation. In April 2009, he introduced H.Res. 1314, a resolution urging the government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt. Last month, he introduced H.Res. 47, a resolution urging the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to adopt stronger protections for endangered species worldwide. Last year, he also received the Florida Panther Protection Award from the Conservancy of Southwest Florida for his efforts to save the Florida Panther from extinction. Such leadership actions were all factors in Hastings earning a perfect 100 percent on the *Humane Scorecard*.

*Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and senior member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.*

###